

CLAIMS

1. A method of encoding a digital video sequence (VS), said digital video sequence comprising some sets of images including a disparity map, said disparity map being used to reconstruct one image of a set of images from a reference image of said set of images, characterized in that the method comprises the steps of:

- 5 - encoding a type of the disparity map to be used for the reconstruction of an image, and
- encoding the disparity map.

2. A method of processing a digital video sequence (VS) as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the encoding of the type of the disparity map is done by means of a
10 flag.

3. A method of processing a digital video sequence (VS) as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the encoding of the type of the disparity map is followed by a set of parameters.

15 4. A computer program product for an encoder (ENC), comprising a set of instructions, which, when loaded into said encoder (ENC), causes the encoder (ENC) to carry out the method claimed in claims 1 to 3.

20 5. A computer program product for a computer, comprising a set of instructions, which, when loaded into said computer, causes the computer to carry out the method claimed in claims 1 to 3.

25 6. An encoder (ENC) for encoding a digital video sequence (VS), said digital video sequence comprising some sets of images including a disparity map, said disparity map being used to reconstruct one image of a set of images from a reference image of said set of images, characterized in that it comprises first encoding means adapted to encode a type of the disparity map to be used for the reconstruction of an image, and second encoding means for encoding the disparity map.

30 7. A video communication system, which is able to receive a digital video sequence (VS), comprising an encoder (ENC) as claimed in claim 6 for encoding said video signal, a

transmission channel for transmitting the encoded video signal and a decoder (DEC) for decoding said encoded video signal.